

her to start her own organization, which is now called Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity.

Mira's non-profit organization provides direct services to victims and survivors of gender-based violence. She started her organization out of an office in Des Moines, and now has offices in Iowa City and Dubuque with roughly 20 employees. Mira credits the success of the non-profit to the employees they've brought in. All of them are experts in their communities and are multilingual, creating a direct, accessible experience to those who are seeking help. Not only does she credit her employees with the success they've had in Iowa, but she also highlights how their work has made it possible for the organization to grow to provide more services in a broader scale. Thanks to her employee's hard work, along with federal funding, Mira was able to have their organization provide national assistance through National Asians Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV). They grew their assistance even further in 2019 as well, as her non-profit received funding for transnational work. Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity now serves victims in the Philippines, Indonesia, Micronesia, and Guam. The non-profit also works with the Alaya Women's Center in the Philippines focusing on sex trade issues.

Mira and her extraordinary team have built her non-profit organization from the community level to a global collaborative aimed at addressing some of the most heinous acts of violence imaginable. Their tremendous work nationally and globally is honorable, and they are just as passionate about addressing these issues at the community level, along with broader issues in the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

Mira's favorite aspect of her work is engaging the Asian youth in our own communities. She teaches them to be confident and comfortable with their identity, and she encourages them to find ways to help others through advocacy and non-profit organizations. She's even more proud after seeing youth she's worked with before grow up and do amazing things for their communities.

Mira, her team, and the non-profit they've developed do so much to better our own communities, and they work tirelessly every day to address the vilest acts committed around the globe. Mira's journey on this path is one of incredible inspiration, and her organization has more planned for the future. In 2018, her organization was gifted a house that they have renovated and plan to use as a community health clinic focusing on mental health. The house would also serve as a community office meeting space, and Mira and her team have more plans for developing further community engagement resources. I am in awe of the work Mira and her team at Monsoon Asian and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity do every day, and I am very honored to name Mira Yusef as this week's Iowan of the Week.

HONORING NORIO UYEMATSU

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Korean War Veteran Norio Uyematsu.

Norio was born in Cupertino, California, the oldest of four children raised by parents Niroku and Shitsuyo Uyematsu, who immigrated to America from Hiroshima, Japan. Norio is a second-generation Japanese American, or Nisei, and he is now one of the few surviving Japanese American veterans who served in the Korean War.

During World War II, when he was age 11, Norio's family was imprisoned for three years in a Japanese American concentration camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming. As they had no home to return to, the Uyematsu family relocated to Brigham City, Utah, in 1945. He graduated from Box Elder High School in Brigham City in 1948 and decided to enlist in the Army. He was only 17 and needed his parent's approval. His father signed his enlistment form immediately, but his mother would not sign until a month before his 18th birthday.

His service began January 3, 1949, when he went through basic and advanced training in Anti-Aircraft Artillery at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. In April of 1950, his planned transfer to Okinawa, Japan, was abruptly changed with the invasion of North Korea into South Korea. Instead, he was transferred to Camp Drake in Japan and was assigned to guard Misawa Air Force Base in Northern Japan.

In July of 1951, his unit was sent to Korea to guard Kimp'o Air Base. Norio was then assigned to the 521st Military Intelligence Service to interrogate prisoners of war.

For his service, Norio, who achieved the rank of Corporal, was decorated with 10 medals. He was honorably discharged from the Army on July 27, 1952 and returned to Utah. From that day forward, Norio dedicated his life to remembering his fallen comrades and to keeping the Korean War veterans' memories alive.

The Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950 and concluded on July 27, 1953, became known as the "Forgotten War." But Norio never forgot that 33,600 American soldiers were killed in action fighting to prevent the North Korean Communist regime from taking over South Korea.

Of the 33,600 men who lost their lives defending South Korea, 247 of those soldiers were Japanese Americans. Because of their selfless sacrifice, the tide of communism on the Korean Peninsula was halted and liberty triumphed over tyranny. Today, the Republic of Korea is a free democracy because of the service of the 5,000 Japanese Americans and other honorable soldiers who fought in the Korean War. Now, a few months short of age 92, he is still working to make sure the sacrifices made by his fellow soldiers are remembered. To fulfill his mission, Norio has served as an active member in several veterans organizations: the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, the Korean War Veterans Association, the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council, the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 100, the American Legion, and the Japanese American Veterans Association, and the Kazuo Masuda VFW Memorial Post 3670, of which he was a three term commander. To continue his ties to his Utah roots, he is also a member of the Salt Lake Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Norio also continues his volunteer activism by supporting community projects and attending events, including the July 27, 2022 dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington, DC.

Throughout his life, Norio was supported in his work by his wife of 63 years, Hanako Rose Fujikawa Uyematsu, also from Brigham City. They raised three boys, Michael, Ronald, and Thomas, who gave them eleven grand-children and two great grandchildren. Rose passed away in 2020 at home in Anaheim, California.

For many, Norio Uyematsu's contributions to his community are not well known since he preferred to humbly work in the shadows. But his spirit of service will continue by the foundation he set reminding others of what Korean War veterans did over 68 years ago to defend Democracy and Freedom. The people of America and the Republic of Korea will be forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING IAN WILSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ian Wilson, who was my legislative staffer, for his service to Kentucky's Second District.

The Acton, Massachusetts native first started working for Kentucky's Second District as an intern in my D.C. Congressional office in the summer of 2018. The following year he returned to Capitol Hill to intern for Congressman ADAM KINZINGER. In 2020, Ian graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with degrees in political science and Middle Eastern studies.

Ian returned to my D.C. congressional office as a staff assistant in January 2022. In this role, he gave constituent tours, managed the U.S. flag order service, and communicated with constituents on policy being debated in Congress. Ian's team player attitude and strong work ethic made him a valuable member of the team. He was promoted to legislative correspondent and used his strong grasp on policy to assist me in responding to constituent inquiries quickly and thoroughly. I want to thank Ian for his work serving Kentucky's Second District as an intern, staff assistant, and legislative correspondent, and I wish him the best in the next chapter of his career.

CELEBRATING MR. DENNIS CAPRARA

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dennis Caprara, who passed away on April 12, 2021. The Salad Bowl of the World lost a key ingredient with the passing of Mr. Caprara, a revered industry leader and farmer in the Salinas Valley. In his 74 years, Mr. Caprara contributed so much to our leading industry of agriculture and our fundamental identity in the Salinas Valley.

A true local boy, Dennis grew up in Gonzales, California, where he grew fond of farming and grew to appreciate the hard work and sound judgment necessary to succeed in agriculture. Founding RC Farms and RC

Packing, Mr. Caprara and his family became the definition of what it means to be a successful family farm.

But Dennis Caprara was not just a farmer, he was a leader. He served as Chairman of the Grower-Shipper Association, director of the Salinas Valley River Coalition, and as a distinguished fellow at a local college. Over the years, he received many honors and awards, such as: CSUMB Distinguished Fellow-Ag Businessman of the Year, Salinas Area Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Leadership Award, and Future Farmers of America Honorary Chapter Farmer.

Dennis also gave back to the community that gave him so much. He was a member of the Swiss Rifle Club and always attended the local livestock auctions where he and his wife, Janice, were active bidders, supporting the young leaders of 4H and Future Farmers of America.

Mr. Caprara was a friend and a mentor to many, including myself. He offered so much to those who knew him, who worked with him, who listened to him, and who loved him.

Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Dennis Caprara. But because of Dennis, every day we realize that the Salad Bowl of life tastes so good, not just because of its products, but also because of its people.

RECOGNIZING THE DONOHO
SCHOOL CLASS 2A STATE
VOLLEYBALL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Donoho School Lady Falcons for winning the AHSAA Class 2A state volleyball title.

Donoho beat Pleasant Valley to secure their third state title in the past four years. The game was played at Birmingham's Bill Harris Arena on October 26, 2022.

Securing this state title brings the volleyball program to 13 total state championships.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Anna Taylor, the volleyball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Lady Falcons.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VICE
ADMIRAL BILL MERZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Vice Admiral Bill Merz, who will retire from the U.S. Navy on December 1, 2022, after nearly 40 years in uniform. His long and distinguished service to our nation reflects an unwavering devotion to duty and great love of country.

Vice Admiral Merz earned his commission from the United States Naval Academy in 1986 and upon graduation entered the fleet as a newly minted submarine officer. Having first qualified aboard the attack submarine USS *Haddo* (SSN 604), he subsequently qualified

in surface warfare while serving aboard the submarine tender USS *Proteus* (AS 19), which was the last remaining vessel in service that observed the end of World War II from Tokyo Bay. After commanding the nuclear deep-sea vessel "NR-1," the attack submarine USS *Memphis* (SSN 691), and Submarine Development Squadron Twelve, his sea-going career concluded aboard the USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) as commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

Merz' service ashore reflected the same rigors he faced at sea, serving in prestigious and demanding roles as Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97); Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Requirements (OPNAV N9); and in his final tour of duty, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy (OPNAV N3N5). During his time at the Pentagon, he had the duty to frequently appear as a witness before congressional committees, and to present budgets and policy. This can be an arduous experience at times, but Admiral Merz never lost his patience, composure, or civility. He treated every member with respect and showed a refreshing willingness to listen to suggestions. As Chair of the Seapower Subcommittee for the last four years, I had the opportunity to see up close the seriousness and authenticity with which he approached his job. He understood that Article one, Section eight, Clause thirteen of the U.S. Constitution vested in Congress the authority to 'provide and maintain a Navy.' As exasperating as that arrangement can sometimes be, Admiral Merz adhered to that edict and thus kept faith with his oath to the Constitution from the day he left Annapolis to his departure on 1 December, 2022.

Madam Speaker, as the proud Representative of Naval Submarine Base New London—the Submarine Capital of the World—I recognize the immense sacrifice Bill has made for this country. Few choose a life that takes them away from their family, but fewer still choose a life in the "Silent Service," where submariners endure deployments without the luxury of frequent communication with their loved ones. For this reason, I ask the Members to also recognize the service and sacrifice of the Men family—his wife Martha, his daughter Caroline, and his sons Thomas and Matthew—without whom these past 40 years could not have been possible. They have been an integral part of the admiral's long journey and deserve our nation's thanks.

As Bill brings to an end this chapter of his life and hangs up the uniform, I ask that we honor him today for his many years of leadership and service to our great Nation. To that end, it is most appropriate that my colleagues in the House join me in celebrating Vice Admiral Bill Merz and wishing him and his family all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

HONORING THE WORK AND RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM "CHIP" R. MURRAY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of William "Chip" R. Mur-

ray, for his retirement after a stunning 47-year career in service to two of our Nation's greatest resources: our forests and the millions of Americans who own and manage them.

After beginning his career at the U.S. Department of the Interior, Chip found his way into forestry in 1989. Chip focused on forestry issues for more than 20 years at the American Forest & Paper Association, where he served as Deputy General Counsel and Executive Director of Forestry. In that role, he oversaw forestry programs that helped forest owners manage their land to meet the objectives of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. Chip also spearheaded important improvements to various legislation impacting the forestry sector.

In 2010, Chip joined the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) as Vice President for Policy, and General Counsel. His work at NAFO over the last 12 years has focused on ensuring that policymakers understand and appreciate private forestry's deeply rooted culture of sustainability and the vast environmental benefits private working forests provide—from climate mitigation and clean air to clean water and wildlife habitat.

Chip's work on wildlife conservation is perhaps his most enduring legacy. Chip led the development of the Wildlife Conservation Initiative, a pioneering partnership between private landowners and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conserve at-risk and declining species on private forestlands. Under Chip's leadership, NAFO's Wildlife Conservation Initiative has become the gold standard of collaborative species conservation. Today, NAFO members and the USFWS are partnering on voluntary conservation projects in every legacy USFWS region in the country.

Throughout his career, Chip has led and participated in a wide variety of forestry sector organizations and coalitions. He is widely known for his encyclopedic knowledge of forestry, his rich institutional memory, and the passion he brings to any issue he touches. Chip is generous with his time, insights, and mentorship, to the great benefit of several generations of forestry professionals.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the outstanding career of Chip Murray, spent in service to our nation's abundant privately owned forests. Today we honor Chip and the lasting impact he has had on the forestry community, both inside and outside of government. We wish him and Ellen well as they start the next chapter of their lives—enjoying many adventures that undoubtedly will include time well spent in the forest.

HONORING LAURA TUCKER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Laura Tucker of Salem, Virginia, upon receiving the Charles Brown Award from Roanoke College. The award recognizes citizens of Salem who have made significant contributions to the well-being of the City and its people, and Ms. Tucker is certainly deserving of the honor.

Ms. Tucker works for the Salem Water Department and as an instructional assistant in